Electricity.

Cost, etc., of the Hydro-electric scheme.

*2290 Q.—Mr. K. SARVARAYUDU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) in what stage the Hydro-electric scheme is;

(b) whether the detailed estimate for a scheme has been prepared and whether the necessary approval of those possessing technical knowledge of the subject has been obtained;

(c) what is the estimated cost of the scheme;

(d) how much of electrical power is calculated to be developed in this scheme;

(e) what are the detailed proposals for the utilization of such power;

(f) (1) how much money has so far been expended on the investigation of the scheme;

(2) what are the details of such expenditure;

(3) what money has been expended on the actual carrying out of the scheme so far;

(g) whether the sanction of the Finance Department and the approval of the Finance Committee have been obtained before any portion of the lump provision made in the budget has been appropriated specifically for the above scheme;

(h) whether it is a fact that the railway authorities have not given their approval to the utilization of the power by them;

(i) whether the Secretary of State's sanction has been finally obtained for the execution of this scheme; and

(j) what are the qualifications of the technical officers appointed by the Government for carrying out this scheme?

A.—Reports on three schemes for the development of hydro-electric power, with sources at Pykara, Pinjikavi and Papanasam have been submitted to Government by the late Chief Engineer. These schemes have been discussed with railway and other parties interested, and the co-operation of the Railway Board has been secured. The schemes are estimated to cost altogether something in the neighbourhood of $5\frac{1}{2}$ crores, and a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs has been provided this year for preliminary operations. This sum was voted by the Legislative Council in the usual course. The reports are now under the scrutiny of a firm of consulting engineers.

Irrigation.

Conversion of dry land in Cumbum valley into wet.

*2291 Q.—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the total extent of dry land in Cumbum valley which can be converted into wet by the Periyar water;

(b) whether Government propose to take any steps to convert them into wet lands in the near future; and

(c) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties felt by the people for drinking water in Cumbum and Coodalore villages?

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A.—(a) The Government have no information.

(b) The question whether the future extension of irrigation under the Periyar system should be in Madura and Melur taluks or in the Cumbum valley is under consideration.

(c) The need for an improved water-supply in these villages has been brought to notice more than once, but no scheme has yet been devised which is financially practicable.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" With reference to the answer given to clause (c), may I know whether the Government have had any scheme at all till now ?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" Yes, but no scheme has yet been devised which is financially practicable. That is a matter for the local board concerned."

Progress in the schemes of pumping.

* 2292 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : With reference to the undertaking given at the Legislative Council meeting of 21st March 1924, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the progress made in the deliberations as to the relative values of the two alternative schemes of pumping referred to therein and the conclusions, if any, arrived at as the result of those deliberations ?

A.—The question of irrigation by pumping and of well irrigation with electric power is still under consideration by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation and the Director of Agriculture, and no final decision has yet been reached. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to paragraph 11 of the note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation which was laid on the Council table on the 3rd November 1925 along with the preliminary report of the Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" In the answer given to this question, it is stated that the question of irrigation by pumping, etc., is still under consideration. In the meanwhile, will Government give facilities to private individuals to undertake such work ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" That is a suggestion for action."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I want to know whether Government have afforded facilities."

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I must ask for notice of this question."

Investigation of the Hagari scheme.

* 2293 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : With reference to the statement of the hon. the Law Member in his speech printed at page 281 of Volume 29 of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council, dated 19th March 1926, that the question of appointing a staff for the investigation of the Hagari scheme has been referred to the Revenue Department for remarks and that orders will be passed thereon immediately after the receipt of the report, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the report has been received and the necessary establishment has been sanctioned ?